

The Bel Aire Breeze

Vol. 6, No. 3

APRIL 2011

Complimentary copy

Pieces are in place

Bel Aire sees potential for growth that is ‘Goddard-like’

By Matt Heilman

When population estimates for the 2010 U.S. Census were released in July, the numbers showed that some of the most significant growth in the state from 2000 to 2010 occurred in north Sedgwick County.

In early March, the official population count was released. Bel Aire, Valley Center, Park City and Kechi saw growth that ranked toward the top of the population counts for cities in south-central Kansas.

From 2000 to 2010, Census results show that Kechi was the second fastest growing city in the area during the first decade of the millennium, jumping 84 percent from 1,038 residents to 1,909.

Kechi Mayor Bob Jackson said the growth started with new housing developments in the mid-1990s and remained steady until the economic downturn hit the area about three years ago. Since 2008, Kechi’s population has plateaued, Jackson said.

Valley Center was the fifth fastest growing city in the Wichita area, increasing by 1,939 residents to a population of 6,822.

Park City was the seventh fastest growing city in the area with a population increase of 1,483 residents. The 26 percent jump showed Park City’s 2010 population to be 7,297 residents.

Bel Aire was the 11th fastest growing city in the Wichita area with an increase of 933 residents. The 16 percent increase brought Bel Aire’s 2010 population to 6,769.

The next census, which will be conducted in 2020, is expected to show significantly more growth for all four cities with more housing, new businesses and new schools. Of the four, Bel Aire is likely to see the most growth between 2010 and 2020.

In 2010, the census champion was Goddard, whose population more than doubled from 2000 to 2010. Depending on how well the economy recovers from the downturn, Bel Aire could boast “Goddard type numbers” in the next decade, Bel Aire City Manager Ty Lasher said.



Along with business development, including expansion expected in the Tierra Verde development near 47th North and Webb Road, Bel Aire is expected to consistently attract new residents with two new USD 259 schools in the city that will open in 2012. The schools are currently Bel Aire’s biggest draw to market new homes in the city.

“You can see the potential there, but we’ll have to see what the economy does,” Bel Aire Mayor Harold Smith said.

As has been well documented, Bel Aire’s very survival is reliant on growth. About this time last year, the city didn’t rule out the possibility of losing its charter in the face of a near \$19 million debt from land purchases.

In 2010, Smith and former Bel Aire Assistant City Manager Matt Stiles worked out a long-term plan to pay off the debt without impacting city services and keeping incremental tax hikes to a minimum.

While encouraged by his city’s potential, Smith emphasized it’s important for Bel Aire to grow the right way.

City leaders hope for Bel Aire to keep its small-town atmosphere with family-friendly residential growth accompanying new commercial and

industrial businesses.

“My hope is that we have a more balanced community than in the past,” Smith said. “In the past, we have been a residential, bedroom community.”

In the past few months, there has been progress with residential and business development that’s slowly starting to break apart the cloud of debt hanging over the city.

As of late March, Lasher said a California-based alternative energy company, called the Energy Tunnel, still had plans to begin production of an alternative energy generator within the next couple years in Bel Aire, utilizing space in Tierra Verde and the neighboring industrial park.

In preparation for industrial business on about 800 acres along 53rd North between Webb Road and Greenwich, Lasher tried to win a grant to construct a railroad spur in the park, building off a rail line.

The spur would allow large industrial units to be shipped by rail directly from the industrial park.

Lasher said the Kansas Department of Transportation recently decided it would like to see development begin on an industrial business before Bel Aire would receive funding for the railroad spur, but

he remained optimistic with the industrial park’s potential, expected to begin with the Energy Tunnel.

Even with a lack of tangible progress in Tierra Verde and the industrial park to this point, residential growth is expected soon. In late March, Lasher announced that the city had closed on a new subdivision on the south side of 53rd Street, across the street from the new high school at the northeast corner of 53rd and Rock Road.

The subdivision will be built on about 70 acres and primarily include starter homes in the \$130,000 to \$150,000 range with some multi-family homes consisting of duplexes.

In mid-March, the Bel Aire City Council approved a marketing incentive to boost home sales in the four-phase Central Park development.

Time will tell if an upswing over the last several months is the start of “Goddard-like growth” for Bel Aire.

Smith said he’s “pretty darn optimistic” about Bel Aire’s outlook for growth, as long as the economy improves over the next decade.

“Driving around, I realized how Bel Aire is well positioned, with Wichita developed about as far northeast as it can go,” Smith said. “If something busts loose, we’re ready.”

City OKs incentive for sales in Central Park

By Matt Heilman

Bel Aire’s future looks brighter than it did about a year ago, but there’s still a lot of land to be sold for the city to overcome its debt. City leaders have been forced to play an active role in working alongside developers and real estate agents to market available lots and new homes. To boost home sales in the Central Park development, which includes four phases as well as the campus for Bel Aire City Hall and the city’s police department, the city council approved an incentive for new homebuyers.

At its March 15 meeting, the council approved a special marketing incentive that includes a promotion to provide free water and sewer service to new homeowners in Central Park for up to six months, or a maximum of \$2,000.

Bel Aire City Administrator Ty Lasher said real estate company J.P. Weigand is on board to offer the incentive to new homebuyers in Central Park for homes sold through May 31. Lasher said the spring parade of homes begins in early

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Council asks that all of city be in boundaries of new schools

By Matt Heilman

The Bel Aire City Council has extensively discussed two new USD 259 schools in Bel Aire and the opportunities they will bring to the city, including the potential to draw new residents and commercial development.

While there’s optimism surrounding the K-8 school near 53rd North and Woodlawn and the high school near 53rd North and Rock Road, questions remain about the schools, which are scheduled to open in the fall of 2012. The two that seem to be asked most often are what the names of the schools will be and where district boundaries will be set.

At its Feb. 22 meeting, the council discussed making a formal request to the Wichita school district to include all of Bel Aire in the schools’ boundaries. On March 1, the council took action by approving a resolution that gives all students within the corporate limits of Bel Aire the opportunity to attend the same school. The resolution was sent to USD 259.

In the resolution, prepared by the city’s attorney, Lee Parker, there’s mention of a resolution from September 2007, which supported allowing students in Bel Aire to attend a single school. The 2007 resolution was approved by the council 4-1 after three months of dialogue with Bel Aire residents.

The resolution adopted by the council on March 1 more or less amends or builds off of what the council passed in 2007, Parker said.

The council passed the resolution 3-0. Council members Dave Austin and Gary Breault were absent from the March 1 meeting.

Sunrise caps season with run at nationals

By Matt Heilman

The Sunrise Christian Academy boys’ basketball team doesn’t get many headlines locally. Sunrise is a private school that isn’t affiliated with the Kansas State High School Activities Association. While the school can’t challenge for a state championship without the KSHSAA affiliation, the Buffaloes have bigger fish to fry.

The team is built around a combination of local talent and foreign-exchange student athletes who bring some national attention to the faith-based school.

“We get more recognition nationally than we do locally,” Sunrise coach and athletic director Kyle Lindsted said. “... Winning a state title is great, but look at the opportunities we get to have.”

This season, the team was led by a

trio of international stars who each are likely to play NCAA Division I basketball after their days at Sunrise.

Buddy Hield is a 6-foot-4 shooting guard from the Bahamas who has “interest from all over the country,” Lindsted said.

Gabriel Olaseni is a 6-10 center from London, England, who Lindsted said is considering offers from Auburn, Iowa, Mississippi and Oklahoma.

Eric Katenda is a French Cameroonian who is considering offers from Wake Forest, Georgia Tech, Notre Dame and Iowa, Lindsted said.

“We’ve had coaches from probably 40 Division I schools come in to watch us practice,” Lindsted said.

This winter, Sunrise traveled to several tournaments across the country and found success most of the way, finishing 24-4 against some of the best private and public schools in the

nation.

“We tried to do a lot more national-type tournaments this year than we have in the past,” Lindsted said.

Sunrise only competed in two tournaments in Kansas this year, one in Colby and one in Olathe. The Buffaloes were undefeated against Kansas opponents this year, including a 50-49 win Dec. 9 against Olathe South, which was ranked in Class 6A at the time.

Sunrise began its season in late November with an invitation to the Fantasy of Light Tournament in Wichita Falls, Texas. The Buffaloes finished third in the tournament that Lindsted said featured some of the best public school teams in Texas. In the season-opening tournament, the Buffaloes suffered their first loss to Estacado High School from Lubbock, Texas.

Estacado went on to compile a 34-2

record on the season.

“Estacado, last I looked, was ranked like 23rd in the country,” Lindsted said.

Leading up to the holiday break, Sunrise finished third at the Kreul Classic in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The Buffaloes lost their first game to one of Florida’s top-ranked teams before they rebounded to reel off three straight wins.

Sunrise concluded its season in early March with a bronze bracket championship of the NACA Tournament in Dayton, Tenn. NACA, which stands for National Association of Christian Athletes, hosted the tournament that consisted of some of the top Christian schools in the nation, Lindsted said.

Lindsted said the Buffaloes narrowly lost the first game of the NACA Tournament before they rebounded

to win their bracket. Coincidentally, Sunrise defeated Word of Life in the bronze bracket championship in Tennessee. Word of Life is a north Wichita private school that is about 10 miles from Sunrise. Word of Life is also a strong basketball program.

On the season, Word of Life boasted wins over the likes of Maize and Emporia.

While his teams gain valuable experience and exposure at national tournaments, Lindsted said he enjoyed playing teams in Kansas. There is one team in particular Lindsted said he’d like to play, Wichita Heights, the three-time defending 6A champion in Kansas.

Heights is just a few miles west of Sunrise.

“I’d love to play them,” Lindsted said. “Even if they want to set something up now, let’s do it.”



Mayor's corner

By Harold Smith

The budget process for 2012 has already started. In this process, your thoughts are important. The more suggestions we receive, the better will be our understanding of what citizens want the city to be. If your goal is lower taxes, it would be most helpful if you could point out where cuts in city services would be acceptable. If you want to maintain or increase a city service, that is also helpful information. At each city council meeting there is a time for citizens' concerns when you can speak directly to the council. We also receive many comments by e-mail. An e-mail gives us a record of exactly what was suggested and it can be reviewed when it is time to work on that issue. The bottom line is that your comments are part of the process and will be considered along with other comments as well as other information we have been able to gather in regard to an issue.

Heights champs make us proud

On the digital sign near Subway in Park City, there's a message that recognizes Wichita Heights High School for an impressive run to say the least. The sign says, "Congrats Heights ... State Champs of Everything." That's not far from the truth. Combining the fall and winter sports seasons, Heights has won five team Class 6A state championships this year. To put that in perspective, but not to pick on another local school, Valley Center High School has one team state championship in its history. For Heights, the run started with an undefeated football season that was nearly derailed in the Class 6A substate final against Dodge City. After falling behind 28-0 in the first quarter of the state's semifinal game, the Falcons mounted a near miraculous comeback, capped by one of the best catches you'll ever see at the high school level. Senior Evan Wessel, usually relied on to lead the defensive secondary, made a diving catch in the back of the endzone to complete the comeback and put Heights in the 6A title game, where they promptly took care of Olathe North in a route.

The good times were only beginning. In the winter, Wessel was part of the boys' basketball team that won its third consecutive state championship. The girls' basketball team, wrestling team and girls' bowling team also won state titles. It'll be interesting to see whether athletes at Heights competing in spring sports can bring another championship or two to the school. We're impressed and proud of all the participants who have given their school plenty of bragging rights this year.

— The Bel Aire Breeze

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ELECTION 2011: BEL AIRE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

MAYOR

Harold Smith

Age: 78
Political experience: Current mayor; former city council member.
Community involvement: Bel Aire Planning Commission.
1. To continue working with the city council and staff on a workable plan to make the land payments with the least possible increase in city taxes. To see that citizens have the means to stay informed on what the city is doing.
2. No. We need to work even harder and think smarter on how to pay down the land debt.
3. All of the above plus anything else we can figure out. Residential development usually comes first. Commercial development follows residential development. Industrial development is also needed. However, that can be a slow process, especially in this economy.
4. The two schools now under construction are a big positive for the city. Also, we need to think more about selling Bel Aire as a good place to live, work or invest. And we need to work harder on how to present our land to possible buyers.

CITY COUNCIL

Carolyn Marlier

Age: 72
Political experience: Member of the Bel Aire City Council for 12 years.
Community involvement: Served on the committee to incorporate Bel Aire; served two years on the recreation committee; served seven years on the Special Events Committee; served on the Bel Aire 30th Anniversary Committee.
1. I am running because in the last 12 years serving on the city council I have been part of many good things in Bel Aire as well as helping make tough decisions on budget, taxes and land debt. I have always had a vision for Bel Aire's future and continue to have that vision and will work diligently to see that Bel Aire is one of the best places to live. I believe in open communication with the citizens and will continue to listen to their concerns.
2. I feel that the debt has been handled in the best way possible. The biggest mistake was not marketing the land soon enough. There are solid plans in place to continue handling the debt in the future. Every stone has been turned to seek the best action for continuing to keep the land debt plan, and with sales and aggressive marketing, we should be able to handle the debt of the city.
3. With two new schools completed in 2012, I believe residential will be a very big benefit to Bel Aire. I also believe that commercial and industrial will play a big part. As residential expands, the

The vote

Voters in Bel Aire will be asked to vote for one mayoral candidate and two at-large city council candidates. Election Day is April 5. Advance voting is taking place from noon to 7 p.m. March 31 and April 1 and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 2 at Bel Aire City Hall, 7651 E. Central Park.

The questions

1. Why are you running for office?
2. Are you satisfied with the way the city is dealing with its debt? If so, why? If not, what changes do you think need to be made?
3. What kind of development do you think will benefit Bel Aire the most moving forward and why? Industrial, commercial or residential.
4. If you were in charge of marketing Bel Aire, what is the No. 1 selling point you would convey? Why?

need for commercial will be needed. With rail spurs and industrial land, this again will be a very beneficial part of Bel Aire's growth. All three will be important for Bel Aire.
4. Bel Aire is a safe, growing community. We have two new schools opening in 2012, a church and other promising things beginning to happen in Bel Aire. It is a city known for friendliness and recreation programs for youth as well as adults and senior citizens. A very well-rounded community. We must convey this information through an aggressive marketing team and let them know what we expect of them.

Dave Sly

Age: 39
Political experience: Bel Aire City Council member since 2007.
Community involvement: Bel Aire Planning Commission (vice-chairman), 2005 to 2007; Bel Aire Economic Development Board, 2006 to 2007; Boeing Employees Community Fund (chairman), 2006 to 2009; USD 259 Facility Master Plan Steering Committee Member, 2007 to 2008.
1. I am running for re-election because I want to continue to help Bel Aire persevere through the current economic difficulties the city is experiencing. There are many opportunities for growth. Re-election would allow me to continue serving the residents in a capacity to help ensure the city remains economically viable. I have remained focused on working to make certain the city not meets its financial

obligations, but also looks ahead for strategic growth opportunities. I work with my fellow council members to focus decision making on facts and data rather than emotions. This talent has helped us govern objectively.
2. I think we've made progress the past four years. When I was elected to the council in 2007, land owned by the city was controlled by a bank holding trust, making it difficult for the city to foster development. We've since restructured the debt to provide the city with more direct control and authority for the land. We have also carefully reviewed the city's budget these last few years to identify targeted cuts that allow Bel Aire to meet spending obligations while still providing necessary and desired services. We have made a concerted effort to reduce city spending without reducing city services.
3. To foster sustainable city operations for both near-term immediate and longer-term strategic growth, I believe we need an adequate mix of residential, commercial and industrial development. My decisions concerning land use have addressed stated goals to decrease Bel Aire's dependence on residential growth for development. The city has sold land to residential, commercial and industrial developers, helping wean the city off of property tax as the sole revenue source for the city. I believe Bel Aire will see increased residential growth due to the new K-8 and high schools being built within our city limits by USD 259.

4. For residential development, I would stress new schools we have under construction. These new schools are an asset for Bel Aire in attracting new development. We have land close to these schools with services in place to allow development to proceed quickly. Bel Aire also enjoys ready access to commercial businesses in neighboring cities. For commercial/industrial development, my primary selling points would be the highly educated and skilled citizens we have in Bel Aire along with nearby access to highway, rail and airport transit services.

expenditures.
2. I am not satisfied with the effort made to market or sell the city property. We have simply selected a real estate company and then taken a passive role. We instead should be an active participant in the sale of our property and expect regular reports from the real estate company describing what marketing steps are being taken and a list of clients contacted.
3. All kinds of development is desirable. We have so much property that if we plan ahead each kind of development can be included. We want to maintain Bel Aire as a mainly residential community, but we should make use of the railway on our property for potential industrial and commercial use. Commercial and industrial development would generate needed tax revenue.
4. Location and infrastructure are critically important. I would point out Bel Aire's excellent location — adjacent to K-254 and K-96 — and amenities of Rock Road and Woodlawn areas (restaurants, shopping and medical facilities). Availability of new public and existing private schools and WSU is only a few minutes away. Finally, we have a very safe community.

Moe Terrebonne

Age: 62
Political experience: Member of the Bel Aire City Council from 1999 through 2005.
Community involvement: Tree Board member since 1999; Bel Aire Days volunteer; church volunteer.
1. I am mainly running to reduce spending and prevent higher taxes through a more strict review of our city budget. The present council has relied more on increasing taxes by raising our mill levy to address financial issues rather than reducing budget

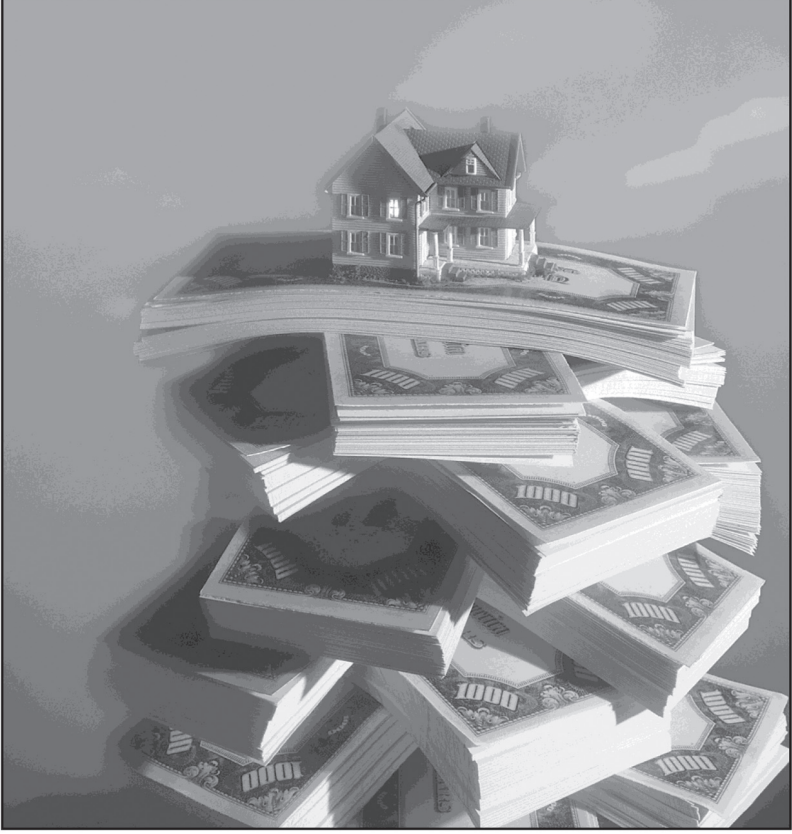


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Saturday, April 16
11 A.M. – 3 P.M.
Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup & Grilled Cheese sandwiches will be served at the **Gospel Assembly Church** at 4220 N. Oliver, 67220. All proceeds will be donated to the Bel Aire Lions Scholarship Fund. A program dedicated to giving kids and families in need the ability to enjoy the Bel Aire Recreation Center Programs.
Adults \$8.00, Children (10 and under) \$4.00
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City of Bel Aire



NOTES FROM CITY HALL

The City of Bel Aire is always looking for volunteers to serve in various capacities:

- The Planning Commission meets the second Thursday of each month to review zoning and development issues related to orderly growth of Bel Aire.
- The Tree Board meets on the last Monday of each month to focus on the beautification of Bel Aire through trees and greenery.
- The Utility Advisory Committee typically meets monthly in the afternoon to discuss issues related to water, sewer, trash, and storm water within the City.
- The Economic Development Committee also meets monthly in the evening to discuss options and ideas for growth within Bel Aire.
- The Special Events Committee meets as needed to plan special activities for citizens that enhance the quality of life.

If you are interested in serving in one of these capacities, please contact Mayor Smith, a City Council member, or City Hall at 744-2451. Citizen engagement is valued and strongly encouraged. Together we can make our community a better place now and into the future!

Celebrate Arbor Day 2011!
Date: April 30, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.
Location: North parking lot of Bel Aire City Hall

Betty Martine, former Deputy City Clerk and Utilities Clerk will be this year's honoree at an Arbor Day tree

dedication in recognition of her 28 years of exemplary service to the City of Bel Aire.

Immediately following the dedication, please accompany us to the round-about north of City Hall for the unveiling of a sculpture commemorating Bel Aire's 30th anniversary.

Please join us as we celebrate these special events.

MEET YOUR CANDIDATE NIGHT

Friday, April 1, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
4551 N. Auburn Bel Aire

Candidates running in the Bel Aire mayoral and city council races have been invited to attend. Each candidate will be given three minutes to state their point of view. A question-and-answer period

will follow. THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO ATTEND.

Moderator for the evening will be Michael Schwanke, KWCH TV.

Sponsored by the Bel Aire Seniors Club.

UMPIRES NEEDED

Bel Aire Rec is accepting baseball & softball umpire applications for the upcoming season.

Experience preferred and must be at least 16 years old. Call Adam at 744-2700 if interested.

Keep This Date Open!
June 18th
7:00 to 10:00 PM

MUSIC AND MOONLIGHT

City Hall Terrace
Music Talent Show
(age 18 and under)
Plus: Music under the stars
(bring your lawn chair)

No admission cost!

ATTENTION K – 8 PARENTS...WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

The City of Bel Aire is currently working to submit an application to the Kansas Department of Transportation for a Safe Routes To School program. What is Safe Routes To School? It is a program designed to help cities and schools work together to promote physical activity in our children. The program encourages them to walk or ride their bike to school, rather than relying on vehicular transportation. To begin, the City of Bel Aire is preparing a Phase I application that must be submitted to the KDOT by May 31, 2011. The Phase I stage is required to tell the state how we intend to provide a safe environment for our children to walk or ride their bike to school.

How can you help? The more support we can get from the community, the more attractive the City's application is to the Department of Transportation. Please take a few minutes to complete the Parent's Survey found on the City of Bel Aire's homepage (www.belaireks.gov) or at the National Center for Safe Routes To School website (www.saferoutesinfo.org). Additionally, any K – 8 parents who would like to write a letter of support for the program is encouraged to do so. This would help increase our chance of being selected for the next phase of the competition. Please address letters to the following, BUT DO NOT SEND THEM:

Ms. Becky Pepper
Kansas Department of Transportation
Eisenhower State Office Building
Bureau of Transportation Planning
700 SW Harrison Street
Topeka, KS 66603-3754

Instead, please send letters of support and completed surveys to:

City of Bel Aire
ATTN: Cody Sims
7651 E. Central Park Ave.
Bel Aire, KS 67226

Your letters of support and survey results will be included in the application packet that will be presented to KDOT in May. Please submit the letters of support and the completed surveys by Friday, May 20, 2011. For questions or concerns, contact Cody Sims at City Hall at 744-2451 or csims@belaireks.gov. Help us show why Bel Aire is the right community for the project! Thank you for your help and support!

Bel Aire Senior Center

All events are held at the Bel Aire Senior Center, 7651 E. Central Park Ave., unless otherwise noted and are for ALL SENIORS living in or near Bel Aire.

The center is open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and has library books to check out, places to study or do research and computers for use.

For more information about the center and its activities, contact Rick Eberhard, Senior Director, at either 744-2451, extension 121, or reberhard@belaireks.gov. Beginning Jan. 1, Officer hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Thursday (Excluding holidays, special events or senior-related meetings.) Any senior can belong to or attend more than one senior center/club in Sedgwick County

Sr. Breakfasts	Friday, 9 a.m. except on Breakfast & Learn Days, Braums 3641 N. Rock Rd.
Men's Fellowship Coffee	Every Monday, 10 a.m., Bel Aire Sr. Center, all men over 55 invited
Bridge	Every Tuesday, 1 p.m.
Aerobics	NEW TIME Every Wednesday, 9 a.m.
Oil Painting Classes	Every Thursday, 1-4 p.m., Cost
TOPS Club	NEW Take of Pounds Sensibly Club Every Tuesday, 10 a.m.

The New Senior TOPS have a team of 6 members who are now participating in Walk Kansas 2011 which is a 8 week healthy lifestyle challenge. This event is organized by Kansas State University Agricultural and Cooperative Extension Service

April 4 — 6:30 PM Bel Aire Senior Center Potluck Dinner, Special Guests for "Meet the Bel Aire City Council & Mayor Candidates" program will be all 3 open City Council Candidates running 2 openings and mayoral candidate (all invited) running for Mayor on April 5th General Election. Bring a large covered food dish for supper to share with others? Doors open at 6:00 PM. Bring your own table service and drinks will be provided.

April 5 – 6 AM to 7 PM "2011 General Election Day" – Get out to VOTE!!! for Local City Council & Mayor races and USD 259 School Board Candidates – In the Community Room at City Hall.

April 6 – 10:30 AM NEW home crafted "Jewelry Making Class" in the Senior Center. Cost \$3.00 pp. Call 744-2451 X-121 for other questions. Need to bring a hand towel and a pair of needle nose pliers for the class.

April 8 – 9 AM "NEW Breakfast & Learn Event" to be held at the Senior Center. Special Program presented by the Catholic Care Center staff. Complimentary Light breakfast will be provided along with coffee and juice. Come learn an overview of all the public services they can provide to the community.

April 8 - 7 PM – Monthly "Senior Fun Night" so bring your favorite card or board games from home along with some snacks or finger food to share. Complimentary drinks will be provided.

April 9 – TBA – Senior Red Hats Society Meeting – Call 744-0217 for details.

April 11 -- 7 PM – Central Park HoA Board Meeting in the Senior Center.

April 12 -- 5:30 PM – NEW: Salad Supper for \$5.00 pp. Advanced RSVP & payment required by calling 744-2451 Ext. 121. Then come learn a NEW "Self Defense Class for WOMEN ONLY" begins at 6 PM. Lt. Harry Spencer from the Bel Aire Police Department, Instructor. RSVP's are required to Sr. Director and all area women are invited.

April 14 -- 6:30 PM. NEW. "Storm Spotters Training and Meeting" in the Bel Aire Community Room. Public is Invited.

April 16 – 10:30 AM – "Single Seniors Monthly Meeting & Fellowship" in the Senior Center. Complimentary coffee.

April 16 – 9:00 to 11:30 AM – "Caregivers that Care" Seminar at the St. Mark's United Methodist Church – 1525 North Lorraine in Wichita, KS. For more questions and to RSVP call Conni Mansaw @ 660-5153

April 18 -- Last Day or deadline to file your Income Taxes for 2010.

April 19 – NEW. The new TOPS CLUB invites the public to a complimentary/special "Seasoning with Herbs and Spices Class" with Lisa Friesen, R.D. K-State Extension Agent in the Senior Center. Public is cordially invited!

April 20 -- 10:30 AM New home crafted "Jewelry Making Class" in the Senior Center. Cost \$3.00 pp. Need to bring a hand towel and pair of needle nose pliers.

April 22 -- 6 PM – Light Senior Fellowship Supper for \$5.00 pp. RSVP with payment to Senior Director Rick Eberhard in advance? Monthly Sr. Pitch Party 7-10 PM. Bring snack items or finger food to share with others.

April 27 – Ladies Bunko Game Night @ 7 PM.

April 30 – 10 AM – 2 PM "National Take Back Initiative II" sponsored by Bel Aire Police Department @ City Hall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AARP Drivers Safety Course & Program is coming on Thursday, May 19th at 8 AM – Sign up to Register early by contacting Senior Director's Office! Cost \$15.00 - 2nd and last course for 2011.

Bel Aire Community wide BLOOD DRIVE coming up on June 10th 12 Noon to 7 PM in the Community Room. Blood Donors are needed so call Senior Director's office today?

May is Older American's Month!!!

Bel Aire Recreation

5251 E. 48th North • www.belaireks.gov • 744-2700
Mon., Tue., & Thur. 8-8 • Wed. & Fri. 8-7 • Sat. 9-3

X-BOX CONNECT

A new X-Box Connect gaming system is now available for use at the Rec Center thanks to a \$500 donation from the Bel Aire Lions Club and a \$500 grant from Sam's Club. The virtual video game is available during scheduled times for members and day fee users.

BLASTBALL

Blastball is an introductory Coed T-Ball program for 4 year olds. Games will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning April 19. There will be one practice on the first night of the season. The deadline has passed however there are a few spots that remain open.

SHORT SPORTS

This instructional program for 3 year olds will teach basic sports skills including throwing, catching, kicking, and batting. Age appropriate sports equipment will be utilized. We will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:30-7:00 beginning April 26. Each child must have an adult partner (Parent, Grandparent, Aunt, etc). Pre-registration is required.

RECREATIONAL SUMMER BALL LEAGUES

Teams will play up to 2 games per week on Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday evenings, or Saturdays beginning May 31. Practices

begin the week of May 16. Coed T-Ball will be for ages 5-6, Machine Pitch Baseball for boys ages 7-8, Machine Pitch Softball for girls ages 7-9, Youth Pitch Baseball for boys ages 9-11, and Youth Pitch Softball for girls ages 10-12. Registration deadline for Residents is April 15. Non-Residents may sign up on April 16 as space allows.

TAEKWONDO

We are accepting registrations for ages 5 & up. Classes meet on Monday & Friday from 5:00-6:00 pm or Tuesday & Thursday from 7:10-8:10 pm. These are great classes for beginners to black belts.

YOGA

Classes are held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:10-7:10 pm. You will need to provide your own yoga mat.

FITNESS CENTER (ages 16 & up)

The Fitness Center consists of elliptical cross trainers, treadmills, recumbent bike, multi-station weight machine, and free-weights. There is no charge for pass holders, or it is available with the purchase of a daily pass. Rates are going up after the first of the year, so join now!

For more information on these or any Bel Aire Recreation Programs call 744-2700.

Bel Aire Senior Club

Activities are held at 4551 N. Auburn unless otherwise noted. Those 55-plus are welcome to participate. For information on programs and services for seniors, contact Vicki Shepard, Tri-City Senior Director, at 744-1199. The club is self-governed and activities benefit all participating seniors.

Free computer class Monday 10:00 AM Park City Senior Center
Free Line Dance lessons Wednesday 2:30 PM Park City Senior Center
Square Dance Lessons and Dancing 6:30 PM every Thursday
(except 3rd Thursday of the month) Park City Senior Center

Free Tax Preparation at Park City Senior Center with AARP Volunteers
Contact Vicki at 744-1199 to make an Appointment

Friday April 1, 7:00 PM Candidates Forum
Tuesday, April 5, 8:30 AM Breakfast at Jimmies Egg east 21st
Monday, April 11, 10:00 AM Board Meeting
11:30 AM Lunch at Fizz's East 37th North
1:30 PM Tour of Cocoa Dolce Artisan Chocolate (Kitchen)

Directions to be given later
Wednesday April 20, 10:00 AM Men's Coffee Braums
Wednesday April 20, 2:00 PM Ladies Tea/Coffee at Braums
Monday April 25, 6:00 PM Covered Dish Dinner
Hosts: Joyce Tammany, Norma McCue & Pauline Scheffler
Program: Heartspring Carol Jared-Brown

Just a reminder to start saving for the annual senior garage sale

For information on senior activities or resources contact
Tri-City Senior Director Vicki Shepard at 744-1199

Deadline for May

Bel Aire Breeze

Friday, April 22

Wingnuts look for home away from home

By Matt Heilman

After the Kansas City Royals affiliate Wichita Wranglers left the Air Capitol in 2007, an independent professional baseball team was formed to fill the void at Wichita’s Lawrence Dumont Stadium. The Wichita Wingnuts aren’t affiliated in a Major League Baseball team’s farm system, but the players do get paid, just not very much.

When the Wranglers were in town, most of the players stayed with host families during the summer, similar to a college-aged team in the National Baseball Congress. The Wingnuts also rely on host families, and the team needs a few more by May.

Terri Ashcroft of Haysville used to serve as the host family coordinator for the Wranglers. Now she fills the volunteer role for the Wingnuts. On Feb. 28, Ashcroft visited with Paul and Freyja Carlstedt in their Bel Aire home.

The Carlstedts plan to host a couple of Wingnut players for their third summer.

“We’re empty nesters and we have four bedrooms upstairs and we’ve got two-and-half or three bedrooms downstairs,” Paul said. “It’s just the two of us.”

He said he saw a mes-



Courtesy photo

The Carlstedts are recognized at last year’s Host Family Appreciation Night. Pictured are (left to right) Jacob Wiley, Jae Jung, Brandon Mathes, Bubba O’Donnell, Paul Carlstedt and (front) Freyja Carlstedt.

sage requesting Wingnut host families in his church’s bulletin about three years ago and decided he’d like to help.

So far, the Carlstedts say they’ve enjoyed opening their basement as an apartment for Wingnut players. The couple maintains a friendship with Justin Young, a player who stayed with them in 2009 and 2010.

Paul and Freyja said they don’t see the players who stay with them very often during the summer. The Wingnuts usually report to the ballpark in the middle of the afternoon and play games in the eve-

ning.

After a home game, players usually get home late and sleep in until the late morning. And each day is a grind for the Wingnuts, with a roster full of young players who fight every day to keep their spot in the batting order or rotation and maintain a dream of someday playing the Major

Leagues.

Paul said some of the players who are married or have children leave their families behind when they report with the Wingnuts in early May. Ashcroft said that from May 15 to Aug. 11, the Wingnuts are scheduled to play 100 games.

The 11 days in that stretch when a game isn’t scheduled, the Wingnuts are either boarding a bus for a road game or practicing.

What’s needed from host families is a place to sleep, some food to eat and an available bathroom, Paul said. Freyja said she keeps a refrigerator for the players stocked with Gatorades and their favorite snacks.

“They need a place they can feel comfortable,” Paul said.

As a host family, the Carlstedts receive a few perks. They attend Wingnuts home games and NBC World Series games at Lawrence Dumont for free.

Paul said he and Freyja also try to attend a few road games for the Wingnuts.

“It’s like watching your own kids play,” Paul said. “They really appreciate it when they see us.”

Tryouts for the Wingnuts start on May 1. Ashcroft said host families are usually spread across the Wichita area, but it’s ideal to have at least a couple of players in the same neighborhood so they can carpool to and from the ballpark.

For the third season, Valley Center resident and former Wichita State University and Wingnuts infielder Kevin Hooper is managing the independent pro team.

“We aren’t able to do what we do without host families, bottom line,” Hooper said. “I

can never thank those people enough for what they do for our guys.”

Besides a few veterans on the team, almost every player on the roster stays with a host family, he said.

Paul Carlstedt said the team could use at least six more host families for the summer. The Carlstedts said they’ve enjoyed being part of the Wingnut family for the last couple of summers.

“As long as I don’t have to cook, it’s a lot of fun,” Freyja said.

For more information on host families or if interested in hosting a player or two this summer, call Ashcroft at 522-0000.

Sales

Continued from Page 1

April and the water utility was chosen for an incentive because “there’s an abundance and the city pays for what it receives.”

“The marketing folks thought it was a great idea to do this,” Lasher said.

Council member Dave Austin supported the incentive, but wondered whether May 31 was too soon of a deadline for the program.

Lasher said Weigand recommended the deadline, likely to add some urgency to pushing new home sales in Central Park. He said future incentives may be possible in the summer and fall.

The incentive was approved by the council, 4-0. Council

member Carolyn Marlier was absent from the March 15 meeting.

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Deadline: April 22

BEL AIRE VOTERS

Please vote April 5th to confirm the direction of the city over the last four years.

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I am an optimistic and positive person. I think we can do better than simply raising taxes (mill levy) to meet Bel Aire’s financial obligations. For the last four years, some members of the present Bel Aire City Council have consistently relied on increasing taxes to meet our city expenses. If your family or business were faced with increased expenses, what would you do? **Wouldn’t you find every way possible to decrease your spending? It’s time for the Council to begin to take that approach.** Our mill levy has increased by almost **66%** in the last four years and some city departments have increased their budgets by **28%**.

The people of Bel Aire are not properly represented when the City Council’s approach is simply to use tax increases to address our financial problems. If you agree with my philosophy of controlling spending and taxes, while not affecting our quality of life, please vote for me on April 5th.

moterrebonne@cox.net

744-2747

Paid for by Moe Terrebonne for City Council

DEATHS

KATHRYN HUPP-LEWIS
Kathryn Elizabeth Hupp-Lewis, 43, McPherson, died March 7, 2011.

She was born in Wichita on April 29, 1967, to D. Douglas and Linda Carol (McGrew) Hupp. She attended L'Ouverture elementary school, Curtis Middle School and graduated from Southeast High School in 1985. She attended York College in York, Neb. and graduated from Harding University in Searcy, Ark. with a degree in social work. She was a member of Countryside Covenant Church. She was a homemaker, worked as a social worker at Charter Hospital in Wichita, worked for the State of Kansas in the tax department in Topeka and worked as a physical fitness instructor teaching different kinds of aerobics and yoga classes in Topeka and taught classes at the YMCA in McPherson.

She was preceded in death by her father, Douglas Hupp; husband, Karl Lewis; and step-brother, Phillip Nichols.

Surviving family members include her children, Gabriel E. Lewis and Audrey E. Lewis of McPherson; mother and step-father, Linda and Dick Nichols of McPherson; brother and sister-in-law, Douglas and Joanna Hupp of Bel Aire; nephew, Micah Hupp of Bel Aire; step-brother and sister-in-law, Ronald and Candie Nichols of Overland Park; step-sister and brother-in-law, Anita and Lane Bomberger of McPherson; several aunts and a uncle; many

cousins and other relatives. Visitation was March 10 at Glidden - Ediger Funeral Home in McPherson. Funeral service was March 11 at Countryside Covenant Church in McPherson. Final resting place will be in the McPherson Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Kathryn E. Lewis Children's Fund, or the McPherson Family YMCA, in care of the Glidden - Ediger Funeral Home, 222 W. Euclid Street, McPherson, KS 67460.

ARLENE BROADFOOT
Arlene Grace (Johnson) Broadfoot, 84, Newton, died March 10, 2011.

She was a retired Wells Fargo teller. She was born in Alpha, Ill. to Irvin Willard Johnson and Laurena Luella (Bodeen) Johnson.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Irvin W. and Laurena Johnson; and sisters, Marge and Evelyn.

Survivors include her husband, Robert Broadfoot; children, Gary and Dove Broadfoot of North Manchester, Ind., Dale and Etta Broadfoot of Indianapolis, and Luan Broadfoot of Bel Aire; grandchildren, Gary Broadfoot, Jr. of Fla., Linda Broadfoot of Indianapolis, Kyle Broadfoot of Bel Aire and Laura Broadfoot of Bel Aire; sister, Clarice Johnson of Moline, Ill.

Service will be held at a later date.

Memorials to First United Methodist Church, 801 N.

Main, Newton, KS 67114 and Christ United Methodist Church, 477 N. Wabash St., Washbash, IN 46992 and Asbury Park Retirement, 200 S.W. 14th, Newton, KS 67114.

ALMA GILLISPIE
Alma Louise Horton Gillispie, 83, Lawrence, formerly of Bel Aire, died Feb. 22, 2011.

She was born Sept. 28, 1927, in Vineland, N.J., to Claude and Gertrude Horton. On May 30, 1952, she married Sidney T. Gillispie. For many years she served as a volunteer photographer for the city of Bel Aire.

She was preceded in death by her husband; her parents; a brother, Claude Horton, Jr.; and her infant daughter, Janet.

Survivors include daughters and son-in-law, Sidney T. and Scott Gillispie, Jr. of Wichita, Patricia Gillispie Miller and Harry Miller of Lawrence; son James D. Gillispie and Michelle Spencer of Tulsa, Okla.; brother, Richard Horton of Vineland, N.J.; six grandchildren, David, Dustin, Danielle, Lydia, Nathaniel, and Aaron; one step-granddaughter, Christy; one great granddaughter, Jade; and many cousins, nieces and nephews.

A celebration of life was held March 5 at the First Presbyterian Church, Wichita, KS.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions in Alma's memory to the Alzheimer's Association, the Presbyterian Manors of Mid-America, or your favorite charity.

RICHARD MCGINN
Richard W. McGinn, 83, Sedgwick, died Feb. 26, 2011. He was a retired Sedgwick Elementary School custodian. He was born May 9, 1927, in Newton to John Maurice and Evelyn E. (Schuetz) McGinn. He was a lifelong resident of Sedgwick and a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Halstead.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Kenneth McGinn; and a grandson, Dustin Fry.

Survivors include sons and daughters-in-law, Mark and Carolyn McGinn of Sedgwick, Garth and Terri McGinn of Bel Aire; daughter, Leigh Charles of Sedgwick; brothers and sisters-in-law, Jerry and Mary McGinn of Sedgwick, Duane and Charlotte McGinn of Halstead; sister and brother-in-law, Janice and Gene McVicar of Sedgwick; three grandchildren, one step-grandchild, two great-grandchildren, and four step-great-grandchildren.

The Rosary was March 1 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Mass of the Christian Burial was March 2 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Burial followed at Hillside Cemetery in Sedgwick.

Memorials may be given to Sedgwick EMS, or Sedgwick Historical Society both in care of Kaufman Funeral Home, Halstead.

Kaufman Funeral Home of Halstead had charge.

VIVIAN SEAL
Vivian B. Seal, 95, Douglass,

died March 18, 2011. She was a homemaker. Vivian is preceded in death by her husband, Chet; son, Wayne.

Survivors include sons and daughters-in-law, Gary of Bel Aire, Kenneth E. and Marjory of Douglass, Keith and Roma, of Douglass; daughter and son-in-law, Marilyn Jo and Jim Ford of Douglass; daughter-in-law, Nancy Seal Rentz of West Columbia, S.C.; sister, Virginia Olmstead of Douglass; 19 grandchildren; 33 great-grandchildren; 17 great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation was March 23 at Hilyard-Smith Funeral Home. Funeral service at 10 a.m. March 24 at First Christian Church, 303 E. Fourth Street.

Memorials to: Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice, 313 S. Market, Wichita, KS 67202 and First Christian Church, P.O. Box 393, Douglass, KS 67039.

LENA HESS
Lena "Marie" (Costantino) Hess, 87, died March 14, 2011. She was a homemaker. She was preceded in death by her husband, Herbert; parents, Domenic and Margherita Costantino; brother, Pete Costantino; and sister, Angelina. Survivors include her daughter and son-in-law, Sherry and Michael Freund of Wichita; son and daughter-in-law, Marty and Anna Hess of Bel Aire; grandchildren, Britt and Denise Freund of Cross Lanes, W.Va., Marni and Celso Puente of Alexandria, W.Va., Jerrod and

Kristen Freund of Rutherford, N.J., Christopher Hess of Derby, and Kelly and Jason Kerfoot of Derby; great-grandchildren, Shay and Brayden Freund, Amalya, Kalyn and Lielle Freund, Julian Puente and Jacob Kerfoot.

The Rosary was March 18 at Downing and Lahey Mortuary East. The Funeral Mass was March 19 at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church.

Memorials have been established with Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice, 313 S. Market, Wichita, KS, 67202 and All Saints Catholic Church, 3205 E. Grand, Wichita, KS, 67218.

PEOPLE

Gabryel Salzman, a 2011 Wichita Heights High School graduate, accepted a \$500 Academic Opportunity Award in teacher education from Fort Hays State University. She is the daughter of David and Sumae Salzman of Bel Aire. She plans to major in teacher education.

Megan Crownover of Bel Aire represented Sedgwick County 4-H as a delegate at Kansas Citizenship in Action Feb. 20 and 21 in Topeka. Delegates had the opportunity to learn about the legislative process as they met in legislative committees then debated and voted on their own "bills" in the state House and Senate chambers.

CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS

Christ Lutheran Church
Sunday service times are 8:30 and 11 a.m. worship and 9:45 a.m. Sunday School.

The church is located at 5356 N. Hillside (53rd North and Hillside) across from Heights High School.

The church will hold special services for the Lenten season. The Holden Evening Prayer will be the order for worship. March 30 there will be a spaghetti and salad supper at 6:15 p.m. Worship will be at 7. The monologue will be The Spear. April 6 there will be a baked potato bar at 6:15. Worship will be at 7. The monologue will be The Shroud. April 13 there will be a pot luck supper at 6:15. Worship will be at 7. The monologue will be The Stone.

Find the church online at www.christ-lutheran.org; e-mail office@clc.kscoxmail.com. Call the office at 744-1242 for more information.

Church of the Resurrection

Church of the Resurrection (Roman Catholic) is located at 4910 N. Woodlawn in Bel Aire.

Masses for the Lord's Day are 5:30 p.m. Saturday and 8:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday. Weekday Masses are 8 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; also at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.

Resurrection Catholic School has students from preschool through eighth grade.

The parish/school website is www.resurrectionwichita.com. Phone number is 744-2776. Rev. Sherman A. Orr is the pastor.

Community Bible Chapel

The church is located at 4551 Auburn, south of 45th

North between Oliver and Woodlawn, in Bel Aire.

Worship service and breaking of the bread are at 9 a.m., with Bible study and Sunday school at 10:30 on Sundays.

Wednesday prayer and Bible study are at 7 p.m.

For more information, call Melvan Adair at 744-7091.

Crossroads Friends Church

Crossroads Friends Church meets at Stucky Middle School (east from 45th North and Hillside) at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday.

The church has Crossroads Kids and Crossroads Cribs ministry areas, as well as contemporary music, relevant Bible teaching and a laid-back, friendly atmosphere.

Lead pastor is David Norman and associate pastor is Jeff Mullen.

Call the church office at 361-0407 or visit it online at www.crossroadswichita.com.

Fairmount United Church of Christ

The church is located at 1605 Fairmount in Wichita (south of WSU main entrance).

Rev. Dr. Monte Gravenstein, interim minister, leads Sunday worship at 10:30 a.m. Adult Bible study begins at 9:30.

Children's church and nursery are at 10:30. For more information, call 682-1597 or visit at www.fairmountuccc.org.

Gospel Assembly Church

Located at 4230 N. Oliver in Bel Aire, service times are 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday. Bible study is 7 p.m. Monday. Prayer service is 7 p.m. Tuesday. Praise and worship is 7 p.m. Wednesday.

Phone number is 744-1502. Rev. Gary D. Green is the pastor.

Greenwich United Methodist Church

Sunday worship service is at 9 a.m. Fellowship and coffee following the service.

Pastor Natalie can be reached at 773-2300 or 744-0203.

Pastor Natalie is at the church from 5:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursdays.

Free coffee and donuts are available from 5:30 to 9 a.m. Thursdays.

Visit the church online at Greenwickskumc.org.

The church is located about a mile south of K-254 on Greenwich Road.

Kechi United Methodist Church

Located at 4533 E. 61st North in Kechi, the Rev. Guy E. Rendoff is the pastor. Church phone number is 744-1221, its website is www.kechiumc.org and its e-mail address is kechiumc@sbcglobal.net.

Sunday praise band and worship are at 9:03 a.m. Sunday school is at 10. Worship is at 11.

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E-mail uumc2220@uumc.net; phone 686-6765. Rev. Phil Shull is the pastor.



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Sunday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
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